

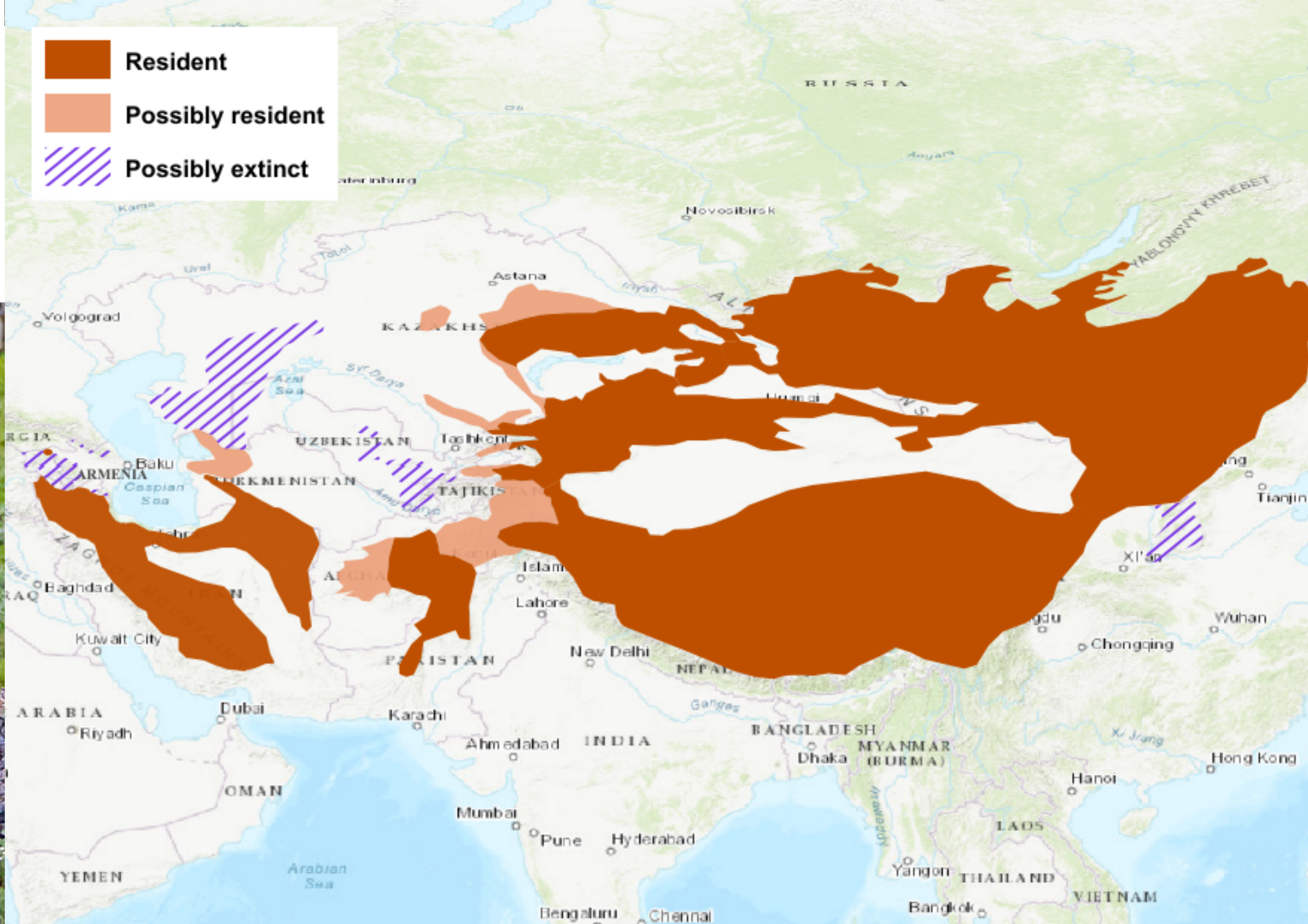
Pallas Cat

Otocolobus manul

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae



-Pallas cats live in cold, sparsely vegetated rocky montane shrublands of the high elevation Asian steppe from 6,000-18,000 ft. They are well camouflaged and well furred for the habitat they are adapted to.

-The Pallas Cat is listed as near threatened by the IUCN and its population is decreasing.



As a solitary, small felid, most of their communication is mother to young or breeding female to male. Communication occurs most frequently via the olfactory system as scent marking plays a major role in communication. Pallas cats, like most carnivorous mammals, have young that are completely dependent on their mother's care for a long time and spend years with their mother learning how to hunt and survive before they become self-sufficient.

Pika (*Ochotona princeps*) and small rodents are the primary prey sources for the carnivorous, cursorial cat.

Pallas cats have reduced humerus, femur, and forelimbs to help the cat stay low to the ground in a habitat sparse of cover.

In addition to stealth and ambush hunting tactics, Pallas cats have also been documented using their tail in a twitching motion to draw the attention of potential prey long enough to get within pouncing distance. The prey is seemingly mesmerized by their tail.

Weight: 5-10 lbs.
Length: 18-26 in
Tail length: 8-12 in

40 mm thick under-fur and more than 50,000 hairs/in² help the Pallas cat withstand temps as low as -57 F



Its small ears are set low on the side of its head; adaptations for stealth and reduced heat loss. This ear position helps the Pallas cat maintain a low profile for hunting and reduce heat loss through its extremities.